

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231**

Inventor: **Mukherjee, et al.**

Serial No: **Div. of 10/189,318**

Filed: **July 8, 2003**

For: **Low Dielectric Materials and
Methods of Producing Same**

Examiner: **M. Foelak**

Art Unit: **1711**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all pending claims and add the following claims addressing subject matter in application serial number 10/189,318:

46. (Added) A method of forming an electronic component comprising a dielectric material, the method comprising
- providing a nanoporous aerogel precursor material;
 - treating the nanoporous aerogel precursor material to form a nanoporous aerogel;
 - providing a blending material having a reinforcing component and a volatile component;
 - combining the nanoporous aerogel and the blending material to form an amalgamation layer; and
 - treating the amalgamation layer to remove a substantial amount of the volatile component, thereby increasing the mechanical strength of the amalgamation layer and decreasing the dielectric constant of the dielectric material.